

JPRS-TTP-87-006

2 APRIL 1987

19981109 137

Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

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2 APRIL 1987

WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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VHF TRANSMITTER DELAYS LEAVE STATIONS IN LIMBO

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 2 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by Peter Robinson]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT policy wranglings have left Radio Television Hongkong (RTHK) and Commercial Radio in limbo regarding when they can start on new VHF transmitters for territory-wide stereo broadcasting — despite being given permission in principle 18 months ago.

The delay has angered a local company, Telerate, which is waiting to launch a portable financial data service using these transmitters.

RTHK's controller for engineering, Mr Philip Manns, said: "We are basically waiting for the money to be released.

"The Government gave its agreement in principle about 18 months ago but the Government Secretariat is still resolving the issue of who should own the several hilltop transmitters."

The Administrative Services and Information Branch is responsible for policy decisions concerning broadcasting.

Deputy Secretary Mr Adolf Hsu said: "I believe we are still in the process of looking into the issue of the charges for the use of these services and must look at costs.

"We will consider whether the sites should be shared out between the various broadcasters or whether the

Government should own them and charge for the use."

The managing director of Telerate, Mr Julian Childs, is angry about the delay since the company thought permission had already been given to go ahead with the transmitters and is anxious to launch a new service.

He said: "When we first proposed to launch our service the Government had given its agreement and we were told the transmitters would be ready in 18 months.

"Tests proved favourable but now 18 months later the Government has not even given its permission to go ahead and it is impossible to get a date for the new network.

"We already have the service in Singapore.

"The authorities there were much keener to support new high-technology based services."

Telerate provides desktop financial information similar to the Reuters service and had planned to introduce portable display quote (PDQ) terminals here.

These pocket-sized liquid crystal display radio receivers can provide a variety of financial information transmitted from VHF transmitters on a sideband service.

Mr Manns said RTHK needed the transmitters to provide better quality wider territory coverage.

Mr Manns said: "RTHK needs to increase VHF coverage for certain areas.

"The population has shifted, particularly in the New Territories and certain areas such as Tuen Mun are not well served at present.

"The Government does not want to have separate transmitters for RTHK and Commercial Radio and it has been considering such issues as whether it should sell the sites off to them or lease them out.

"The issue is also likely to involve other Government departments."

He said RTHK had not contracted with Telerate to allow it or any other company to use the transmitters yet.

But he said: "Obviously Telerate is anxious to know one way or the other."

Mr Manns said the sideband service could also provide other channels with special applications such as up-to-the-minute weather reports.

The idea would be to provide seven VHF channels for RTHK and Commercial Radio each with a special sideband channel for other uses.

However, he said that tests would have to be conducted to make sure that the sideband channels did not interfere with the quality of the main channels.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

UN TO ASSIST SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

OW181423 Beijing XINHUA in English 1115 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] United Nations, February 17 (XINHUA)--The United Nations will collaborate with the Chinese Government in establishing a "state technological development center for satellite communications and television education."

Fang Xiao, chairman of the Chinese delegation to the 24th Session of the Scientific and Technical U.N. Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space made the revelation at the opening meeting of the 24th session this morning.

The project, to be financed primarily by the Chinese Government, is aimed at promoting satellite technology in China and the Asian-Pacific Region. The United Nations will provide financial and technical assistance to the project.

Addressing the 53-member states of the committee today, Fang said that China will continue to be active in the U.N. space applications program.

Fang announced that China will partly sponsor an international workshop on communication satellites for educational programs to be held in Beijing in 1988 in conjunction with the outer space division of the United Nations.

The theme for the two-week session "Space Communications for Development" is particularly appropriate for China, he said. "With its large expenses of territory and varied terrain, satellite communications is the most suitable means of communications for China."

He said China has made important progress in this area in the past two years. With more than 2,000 receiving stations, two comprehensive TV programs and one educational program are transmitted daily nationwide through satellites.

A preliminary satellite communications network was put into operation on the national level last year, and applications of related technologies will be accelerated, the Chinese delegate told the session.

China completed its remote-sensing station and began receiving landsat data in 1986. China will soon be receiving data from "spot" satellites. "The study and application of remote-sensing technologies is a priority project for the state," he said.

Fang reiterated China's desire to actively seek international cooperation in these areas on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, while implementing its policy of independence and self-reliance.

/8309

CSO: 5500/4148

PLA ADVANCES IN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NOTED

HK181053 Hong Kong ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE in Chinese 0258 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Report: "The Army of China Basically Completes the Building of an Electronic Communication Network"--ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE headline]

[Text] Beijing, 18 Feb (ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE)--The Army of China has made important progress in electronic communication and has now basically completed the building of a communication network radiating in all directions, with the supreme command as the center, fixed communication stations as the backbone elements, peacetime work linked to wartime work, wire communication linked to radio communication, and direct communication linked to indirect communication.

It has been learned that the Chinese Army has large-capacity multifunctional satellite communication, that digital microwave communication and optical-fiber communication are rising, and that the first mobile ground satellite communication station has been successfully trial-produced. At the same time, confidential work is now gradually being done by electronics rather than by machinery, thus improving the rapid reaction ability and enhancing the security level as a whole.

While reporting this news, KEJI RIBAO [SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DAILY] stated that over the past few years, the Chinese Army had strengthened the building of the main strategic communication lines and the coastal border-defense communication lines and successively built a long-distance automatic telephone exchange network connecting PLA units stationed in several dozen cities. Some 30,000 main telephone exchanges were installed in 1986.

A large channel carrier communications equipment with the advanced level of the 1980's has been put into operation in some key units. Single sideband receivers and transmitters have generally been replaced by those of better quality and of stronger power. The communication equipment for field operations has basically become small and serialized.

The Chinese Army's automation of command has entered the stage of the development and application of the combined computer network. The information processing system and digital facsimile communication which suit the characteristics of Chinese language and characters have been applied throughout headquarters, all large military regions and branches of military services, and the main group armies, forming a preliminary framework of the network of the automation of command of the whole army. A computer technical force of some 7,000 people has been set up, a large number of applied softwares have developed, and a large amount of equipment and systems with domestic advanced level have been trial-produced.

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON DEPOLARIZATION DUE TO MULTIPATH PROPAGATION

Beijing DIANZI XUEBAO [ACTA ELECTRONICA SINICA] in Chinese Vol 15, No 1, Jan 87
pp 16-23

[English abstract of article by Xie Yixi [6200 4135 3305] and Guo Changshun
[6753 7022 7311] of the China Research Institute of Radiowave Propagation]

[Text] An experiment on cross-polarization, fading and space diversity was conducted at 7.6 GHz over 29.07 km path and the radiosonde was made in the mid-path. The experimental results show that the multipath fading and depolarization are serious in the central plains of China, the effect of depolarization on system performance is much more important than fading of signal level for double polarization frequency reuse communication system, the deep fading and depolarization in clear-air are caused by multipath due to atmospheric layer without the surface reflection, the high correlation and linear relation with slope not to equal to -1 exist between the cross-polar discrimination XPD and Co-polar attenuation CPA, a significant improvement for deterioration of XPD and CPA can be obtained by space diversity. The experimental results agree well with the theoretical calculations on probability distribution of XPD and CPA. (Paper received May 1985, revised June 1986)

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RESEARCH ON A KIND OF PICTURE IN PICTURE COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEM

Beijing DIANZI XUEBAO [ACTA ELECTRONICA SINICA] in Chinese Vol 15, No 1, Jan 87
pp 126-128

[English abstract of article by Zhang Jisheng [1728 4764 3932] and Yu Sile
[0205 2448 2867] of Tianjin University, Tianjin]

[Text] A picture in picture colour television system in accordance with the TV standard of China and with improved quality is put forward. The filtering, storage, sampling and quantization schemes of the subpicture signal are discussed, the methods of composite filtering, time division shared ADC, sampling correction and reading out correction, etc. are proposed. The test results show that the basic consideration of the system is correct, the designs of main circuits are feasible, the system functions are realizable.

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CSO: 5500/4146

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

SICHUAN MICROWAVE TELEPHONE SYSTEM--Chengdu, 30 Dec (XINHUA)--Construction has begun on a digital microwave telephone system in Sichuan Province, a local posts and telecommunications official told XINHUA today. When fully completed, the system will add 3,840 long-distance telephone lines to the existing network, the official said. It will be able to provide direct dialing services to 8 cities--Chengdu, Luzhou, Yibin, Leshan, Zigong, Neijiang, Deyang, and Mianyang--all in the province. The first phase of the project, 2,000 lines, is planned to be completed in 1988. Optical-fiber techniques will be used also, the official said. [Text] [Beijing XINHUA in English 1213 GMT 30 Dec 86 OW] /8309

JIANGXI TV SATELLITE STATION--According to Leping County Broadcasting Center, the county's television satellite ground station was put into operation yesterday. The ground station can cover more than 60 percent of the county's area. The county's viewers can now clearly watch the programs of the Jingdezhen TV Station, Jiangxi TV Station, or Central TV Station. According to Xunwu County Broadcasting Center, Xunwu County satellite ground television station formally started broadcasting this morning. All viewers in the country were happy [watching] the special New Year's Day program of the Central TV Station. The ground station can cover 60 percent of the county's area. [Text] [Nanchang Jiangxi Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 1 Jan 87 OW] /8309

JIANGSU YANCHENG RADIO STATION--The Yancheng People's Broadcasting Station will formally go into operation today. An inauguration ceremony was held yesterday afternoon. Now, all 11 cities directly under Jiangsu Province have their own broadcasting stations. [Text] [Nanjing Jiangsu Provincial Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 14 Feb 87 OW] /8309

CSO: 5500/4149

CRTC ISSUES DECISION ON CBC PROGRAMMING, PROJECTS

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 24 Feb 87 p A9

[Text]

HULL, Que. (CP) — The Canadian Broadcasting Corp., that paragon of all things Canadian, was told to stay its course over the next decade or so in a decision from the federal television regulator on Monday.

In a five-year renewal of its French and English television licences, the CBC was complimented for its leadership in Canadian programming and in services to the country's regions. And it was cajoled to do more of the same in the future, past the five-year renewal period.

It was told not to proceed with plans to build an expensive superstation in Windsor to beam programming into the United States or start a second television service unless separate funding is secured.

The decision by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission follows hearings last fall in which the CBC's managers complained that the billion-dollar corporation was financially strapped, hamstrung by a government unwilling to let it get on with its job.

Top managers argued that the CBC was unable to respond to new chal-

lenges without new money. And the CRTC appeared to buy that argument, without saying so directly.

CRTC CHAIRMAN Andre Bureau, while disclaiming any authority to set funding levels for the corporation, urged the Conservative government to "assure itself that the CBC has sufficient funds to enable the corporation to fulfil the objectives set out for it in the Broadcasting Act."

And the CRTC, in keeping its list of licence requirements and long-term objectives away from projects needing heavy investment, acknowledged that the CBC is reeling from budget cuts since the Conservatives came to office.

This year, the CBC's budget will top \$1 billion, about \$800 million of it from taxpayers. CBC president Pierre Juneau said inflation will cause a shortfall of about \$50 million in the current fiscal year, a gap that will have to be made up in staff reductions and through shifting priorities.

About 100 to 150 CBC employees will either be laid off or offered early retirement this year in attempts to deal with the shortfall, Juneau said.

/9317

CSO: 5520/21

AWARD TO TELEGLOBE CANADA SALE TO MEMOTEC ANNOUNCED

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 12 Feb 87 pp A1, A2

[Article by Christopher Waddell]

[Text]

Memotec Data Inc., a small Montreal-based high-technology company, has outbid five corporate giants to buy Crown-owned Teleglobe Canada for \$488.3-million, Minister of State for Privatization Barbara McDougall announced yesterday.

But a cloud has been cast over Memotec's victory by the possibility of irregularities in the trading of its shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

On Feb. 5, the day that the federal Government's advisor, Canada Development Investment Corp., confidentially recommended the acceptance of Memotec's bid, the company's shares shot up \$2.37 before trading was halted. Trading was resumed after Memotec issued a statement saying it was a bidder.

In making the announcement yesterday, Mrs. McDougall told a news conference that Memotec submitted, "without question," the best bid.

She said that price and employee considerations such as pension plans and other issues all entered into the Government's decision to choose the Memotec offer over proposals from Power Corp. of Canada, First City Financial Corp., Inter-City Gas Corp., the Quebec pension fund giant Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec, and a group financed by a subsidiary of investment dealer Gordon Capital Corp.

The Teleglobe privatization is the largest of 11 undertaken by the Conservative Government since it came to power in September, 1984.

The deal is good news for Finance Minister Michael Wilson as he prepares next Wednesday's federal budget. It will provide an estimated \$469-million to apply against this year's expected \$32-billion deficit, after deducting from the selling price the \$7-million cost of arranging the sale, a \$10-million contingency fund for possible liabilities, and approximately \$2-million that represents the value of Teleglobe on the Government's books.

"This wasn't an accident. It was well planned and well thought through," Memotec president William Mackenzie told the news conference in explaining his company's efforts to buy Teleglobe.

In the deal, Teleglobe management will remain in place, no employees will be laid off, existing collective agreements will continue, and the company's head office will stay in Montreal. Within six months, employees will be offered a chance to purchase 5 per cent of Teleglobe's shares at 90 per cent of the price paid by Memotec through interest-free loans repayable over five years.

Although bidders for the Crown corporation were offered an opportunity on Feb. 3 to alter bids originally submitted on Jan. 9, Mrs.

McDougall said yesterday that the Memotec bid had not been modified.

The two opposition parties, joined by the Communications Workers of Canada, all condemned the deal as a triumph of ideology over common sense.

"I feel for Canadians it's a rather sad moment," said Liberal critic Shelia Finestone, noting that Teleglobe is a profitable, well-run company that paid the federal Government dividends of \$108-million in 1985 and \$80-million last year.

"I think they're selling it for ideological reasons," added New Democratic Party MP Ian Waddell.

Mrs. McDougall said the move is consistent with the Conservative Government's commitment to manage assets better, reduce the size of Government and not have federally owned institutions competing with the private sector.

"I think the public interest is served better if there is a more dynamic economic future for the company and its employees, and government can get on with managing things that government is supposed to do."

Memotec has interests in data communications and data processing systems and services, handling Canadian long-distance overseas phone calls. A U.S. subsidiary manufactures control and management systems for data networks.

The major shareholders in Memotec are Altamira Capital Corp. and Investissements Novacap Inc., two venture capital companies. They are owed by a group that includes the National Bank of Canada, Lau-

rentian Group Corp., the Quebec Government-owned Société Général de Financement du Québec, plus the pension funds of Air Canada, Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

The Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec holds a convertible debenture in Memotec and also is an investor in Altramira and Novacap.

Mr. Mackenzie said yesterday that Memotec would finance the purchase through a loan from the National Bank, with additional support from Novacap, Altamira and other investors.

This loan can be made with the knowledge — repeated yesterday by Mrs. McDougall — that the federal Government will pass legislation to ensure that Canada's telephone companies are not able to bypass a privatized Teleglobe by routing overseas calls through the United States.

"There will be a public (share) issue to replace the interim loan given by National Bank," Novacap president Marc Beauchamp added.

He did not indicate, however, whether Memotec had any agreement under which the telephone companies might purchase an equity interest in the privatized Teleglobe.

When the deal closes on March 31, Memotec will pay \$488.3-million for Teleglobe plus return \$102-million in accumulated cash from Teleglobe to the federal Government. It will also pay a special dividend of approximately \$18-million to the Government on Dec. 31, 1987, making the total price \$608.3-million.

/9317

CSO: 5520/18

BELL CELLULAR TO UPGRADE SERVICE TO OTTAWA-HULL

Ottawa THE OTTAWA CITIZEN in English 6 Feb 87 p A14

[Article by Karen Benzing]

[Text]

Bell Cellular, one of two mobile radio-telephone companies fiercely competing for business in Ontario and Quebec, plans to spend \$3.7 million this year to improve service to Ottawa-Hull.

André Halley, Bell Cellular's eastern regional vice president, said Thursday that two cells will be added to the three already in the Ottawa-Hull area to ensure callers won't experience fading, interference or blockage when driving through the region.

A cell is an area about 25 square kilometers in size. As the caller drives from one cell to another the signal is handed off.

Bell has 1,340 local subscribers, about 65 per cent of the Ottawa-Hull market, and expects the number to more than double to 3,100 by the end of the year.

The two additional cells are necessary to handle the sharp increase in subscribers, he said.

The Ottawa-area investment is part of a \$70-million expansion that will extend Bell's service to Kingston and cities west of there this year.

The ultimate goal is to establish continuous cellular service between Montreal and Toronto by the end of 1988, Halley told reporters.

That would allow a caller to have one long, uninterrupted, but very expensive, telephone conversation while driving from Montreal to Toronto.

Toronto-based Bell and Cantel Inc., of Montreal, are neck and neck in a race to see who will be the first to link up with Kingston and then complete the Montreal-Toronto corridor.

Kathy McLaughlin, Cantel's vice president of marketing, said in an interview that the Cantel network between Quebec City and Windsor would be completed by the end of 1987, a year ahead of Bell.

And the company's network will reach Kingston by mid March, before Bell, she said.

Reached, later, at an Ottawa restaurant where he talked to a reporter on his mobile cellular phone, Halley said Kingston will join Bell's cellular network by the end of March. He also doubted Cantel would be able to meet its target date.

Both companies have spent almost the same amount of money so far to set up their systems. Bell has invested about \$117 million and Cantel \$120 million. Bell will spend an additional \$70 mil-

lion this year and Cantel \$66 million by the end of its fiscal year ending Aug. 31.

Though virtually tied in the race, both claim to have more than 50 per cent of the Ontario-Quebec market. Bell said between 55 per cent and 60 per cent and Cantel between 53 per cent and 55 per cent.

Cantel has edged out Bell with 27,500 subscribers compared to Bell's 24,000. Bell has forecast its subscribers will more than double to 45,000 this year, Cantel is looking for between 48,000 and 50,000 in Ontario and Quebec.

Halley said Bell, a subsidiary of BCE Commcor Inc., which is owned by Bell Canada Enterprises, has forecast gross revenues will more than double to \$64 million this year from \$29 million in 1986. He said the firm will start showing a profit in 1988.

McLaughlin said Cantel expects to be profitable by its 1988 fiscal yearend.

/9317

CSO: 5520/18

CANADA

BRIEFS

NORTEL SWITCHES TO SHANGHAI--Northern Telecom Ltd of Mississauga, Ont, has sold two portable telephone company switches totaling more than \$1-million (U.S.) to the Post and Telecommunications Administration of Shanghai. The contract, signed in January, calls for delivery within six months "to meet urgent requirements," the company said. Each of the DMS-10 switches used to route subscriber telephone calls can handle up to 2,000 telephone lines. Northern Telecom installed three of the portable switches, housed in container-like trailers, in Beijing last June. Hugh Hamilton, president of Northern Telecom Pacific, said negotiations are continuing with the Shanghai utility regarding future opportunities. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 4 Mar 87 p B2] /9317

CSO: 5520/21

PLANS FOR EARTH STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT REVIEWED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 17 Jan 87 p 7

[Text]

CABLE AND WIRELESS PLC has an important project in progress to replace major components of the antenna dish at Belmopan Earth Station. The project, known as a retrofit, is part of a programme to ensure that Belmopan Earth Station will be able to work to the new generation of satellites being put into service by Intelsat in 1988. Intelsat is the world governing body for satellite operation.

The programme is scheduled to take 2 months. To maintain their international telephone service during the retrofit, Cable and Wireless PLC has specifically purchased a temporary and transportable 7.5 Metre antenna dish from NEC Japan. This temporary system has to be built and commissioned before the existing antenna can be released from service for modifications. During the modification work, the temporary system will be able to carry the 50 international channels presently in use.

Five Earth Station Engineers from Cable and Wireless, London have arrived in Belize and are now assembling the Transportable Antenna System. Local contractor, Carlos Barillas Ltd. has undertaken the civil works and will be assisting the team as required.

The total cost of the project will exceed BZ\$800,000.00 and it should ensure that the Station remains operational for the foreseeable future.

When the work is completed, the Transportable Antenna System will be dismantled, packed into two containers and shipped to Cook Island and Tonga to undertake similar operations for Cable and Wireless. (Cable & Wireless Press Release).

/12828

CSO: 5540/065

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

JBC MANAGEMENT.--Kingston, 12 Feb (CANA)--Well-known Jamaican cultural figure, Carey Robinson, has been appointed general manager of the state-owned Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) for the second time, JBC reported today. Robinson who previously headed the JBC in the 1970's, will take up his new appointment next Monday [16 February]. At present, Robinson is executive director of the National Heritage Trust. JBC operates radio and television services. Robinson has also been named to head the government's secretariat preparing for the privatisation of the state-owned media, JBC said. Former JBC General Manager Gloria Lannaman was to have gone to the prime minister's office to head that secretariat shortly before her death last May. The government is planning to divest JBC's morning television and lease the corporation's national AM radio as well as its three regional stations, two of which have already been closed. The government is also planning to sell its 24 percent share in the independent Radio Jamaica. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 12 Feb 87 FL] /9274

CSO: 5540/066

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

CABLE TV PLANS--According to Caribbean Cable Television (CCTV), which is owned by Vincentian Clifford Davy and 15 partners, the Company has agreed to use the technical experience of a Caribbean partner in order to expand its service. The partner called the Cable, "already provides a well accepted service to over 2,600 subscribers in St Kitts," Davy explained. He said that up to twelve channels will be available within the next three months. Cable Television presently serves 210 subscribers (less than 5 percent of the population. The new plans aim at servicing 60 percent of the population, including Bequia. The press was told that the project involves the investment of US\$1 million dollars and full time employment of 18-20. THE VINCENTIAN hopes to carry a full scale article on the subject next week, [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 23 Jan 87 p 2] /9274

CSO: 5540/067

MEDIA POLICY TO PRECEDE DECISION ON NEW RADIO, TV OUTLETS

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

NEW YORK. Sunday (CANA) - The Trinidad and Tobago Government will not make a decision on a flood of applications for new radio and television stations before drawing up a media policy, according to Information Minister Dr Brinsley Samaroo. That policy, Dr Samaroo told CANA, would be devised after extensive dialogue in the country and with inputs from journalists.

The Minister explained that the process of coming up with a media strategy should take about three to four months, and after that has been completed, the Government would turn its attention to the large number

of applications for broadcast licenses.

"The Government's view on the matter is that it will be all right to have another television station," he said. "In fact," he went on, "we have many applications for new television stations, as well as new radio stations. What we are trying to do at the moment is to draw out, to create a media policy, and we hope that in the next three or four months that will have been devised.

"That is one of the reasons why we are having a media conference in March so we can have inputs from the media itself."

/9274

CSO: 5540/068

ARABSAT CHAIRMAN ON PROBLEMS, ISRAELI SATELLITE

JN221735 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 20 Feb 87 p 3

[Interview with Dr Faysal Ahmad Zaydan, chairman of the board of the Arab organization for Satellite Communications--Arabsat, by correspondent Hilal ibn Salim al-Hani'i in Muscat--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted on Arabsat's establishment] [Al-Han'i] Is there any intention to lease the Arab satellite to a company that will operate it and why?

[Zaydan] There is no intention to lease the Arab satellite to any Arab company. However, there is an intention to lease some channels which are in excess of the Arab countries' needs to any company that makes a request. Under such a lease, a company will exploit the channels for the purpose it wants to attain among Arab countries. We do not intend to give the administration of Arabsat to any company. Arabsat's administration is composed of a General Assembly, a Board of Administration, and an executive body which is headed by a director general. This body implements the tasks entrusted to it by the Board of Administration, and currently supervises production, launching operations, and operations in general.

[Al-Hana'i] Can you summarize the most prominent problems Arabsat is facing?

[Zaydan] At the beginning, Arabsat faced some administrative problems, particularly the training of Arab cadres. We have now overcome this problem. Arab technicians have been appointed for training and we hope they will be able to operate the entire project by the end of this year. At present, experts from a French manufacturing company assists us in the operation of the satellite. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hana'i] Israel announced it will launch a satellite in the same orbit as the Arab satellite that will interfere with its operations. What is Arabsat's reply to this?

[Zaydan] Some problems have emerged following Israel's announcement that it intends to launch a satellite. If launched, such a satellite will not be within the orbit of the Arab satellite because there are international regulations that ban this. At Saudi Arabia's request, the Arab League has started to confront this Israeli project. Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with the other Arab countries and Arabsat, have put things in motion to prevent the Israeli satellite from interfering with the Arab satellite. Contacts have been made with the International Telecommunication Union [ITU] and other international bodies for this purpose. We are also coordinating with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation in this respect.

/8309

CSO: 5500/4509

BRIEFS

COMILLA RADIO STATION--Information Minister Anwar Zahid said yesterday the Government planned to commission the new 10 K.WE. medium wave radio transmission centre at Comilla shortly, reports BSS. Construction work of the centre has been completed and test transmission is now going on from the centre, the Minister told the Jatiya Sangead. Replying to Principal Abul Kalam Majumder (AL-Comilla) in a written reply Mr Zahid said the government had no plan to set up any new radio centre in the near future. At present there were six radio centres in the country at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur and Sylhet, he said. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Feb 87 p 8] /13104

CSO: 5550/0098

CONFERENCE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MISSION HELD IN DELHI

Gandhi Opens Conference

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Feb 87 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, February 3.

THE two-day official national conference on the telecommunication mission began today on an unrealistic note, with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, calling for a technological quantum jump and the disappearance of the waiting list of one million for telephones by the end of the current five year plan.

The communications minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, wisened during his brief tenure in the ministry, went only as far as assuring the Prime Minister of an efficient service.

His younger colleague, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, minister of state, went a step further and promptly agreed to wipe out the telephone waiting list provided the required funds were made available.

The Prime Minister noticed the catch and joined in the laughter that greeted Mr. Dev's statement. The assembled experts, politicians and administrators, who detected humour in Mr. Dev's remarks were only too aware of the fact that given the present rate of investments, the waiting list is likely to grow than disappear.

As for the technological jump, the Prime Minister's support to the C-Dot, which is working on a contemporary digital main exchange, has made the sceptics muffle their voices of disbelief and for the time being, kept the sellers of foreign technologies at bay.

But the motive force for this drive towards self-reliance came from an Indian settled in America, Mr. Sam Pitroda, an inventor and adviser to C-Dot, who was given the pride of place at the national conference.

Mr. Pitroda told the conference that the challenges posed by the induction of new technologies could

not be met through an outdated organisational structure. Significantly, the conference is discussing a proposal for the reorganisation of the department of communications.

The paper for discussion has outlined a new organisational structure on the pattern of the space commission and the atomic energy commission. It is called the telecom commission.

The telecom commission will be an overall policy and regulatory body with full financial and administrative powers of the government, charged with the overall responsibility for modernising telecommunication equipment and services.

It is not common for the government to organise such a conference as an exercise preparatory to policy-making and reorganisation of the ministry. The proposal for the commission is a serious one and the conference is considered to be a prelude to its establishment.

Reflecting the new administrative culture pioneered by C-Dot in this traditional-bound ministry, Mr. Arjun Singh himself addressed letters to participants with a detailed background on the subject.

Mr. Pitroda, envied by those whose urgent official papers disappear in various bhavans for months, was ready with his slide show, oozing confidence in the inherent capabilities of Indian science and engineering.

In this upbeat atmosphere, remarks by one or two participants about the inadequacies of the past sounded like excuses. If Mr. Pitroda and his team of experts succeed in the digital main exchange technology, as they have in the case of a small electronic switch, his alien association may be forgiven.

While working on the contemporary switching technology, Mr. Pitroda has

already used his technology to cut red tape quite effectively and the chairman of the Indian Telephone Industries, Mr. K. P. P. Nambiar, among the participants, is already talking of following the C-Dot structure for the new ambitious R and D centre of ITL.

Mr. Gandhi himself stressed the need for finding solutions to problems at home and regretted that all this time India was trying to match its telecommunication problems to solutions available abroad.

Mr. Pitroda was equally ruthless. Talking of the need for standardisation, he referred to the virtual technological museum built up by the import-happy department. If French credit was available the equipment came from France, if Swedish credit was available it came from Sweden, he remarked mefully.

Mr. Gandhi wanted telecommunication engineers to train their sights towards frontier technologies because without leap-frogging, India would never be able to catch up with developed countries even in selected areas.

Whatever the signals that had gone to policy-makers earlier from Mr. Gandhi, of late, he has been stressing more on the aspects of equity and distribution. At the conference on telecommunications also, Mr. Gandhi criticised the imbalance between rural and the urban sectors.

The urban section had 90 per cent of the telecommunication resources, he said. Within the urban areas, Mr. Gandhi criticised the neglect of public services such as public call offices.

Mr. Gandhi also warned the country against missing the information technology revolution since the consequences of that for a developing

country would be even more disastrous than those of having missed the industrial revolution.

Mr. D. K. Sangal, secretary in the ministry of communications, presented the future plans and the outline of the telecommunication mission.

He assured the Prime Minister that all those employed in the telecommunications sector would be able to come up to his expectations.

Report on Decisions

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Feb 87 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 5.

A two-day national conference on telecommunication mission, held here at the instance of the Union Communications Minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has expressed the view that an organisational change tailored to meet the present day requirements is needed in the country's telecommunication set-up. The deliberations of the conference covered a wide spectrum, and several participants focussed their attention on institutional changes to match the information revolution.

Such a new set-up could be in the form of a telecommunication commission vested with full authority by the Government of India for taking all policy decisions in the telecommunication sector, felt the conference.

Lacks adequate authority: The Department of Telecommunications, it noted, is a centralised organisation without adequate authority to take overall policy decisions. It lacks well-defined responsibilities as well as authority at the implementation level. The organisational structure evolved before Independence lacks the ability to implement modern sophisticated technologies. Hence the need for changing the organisational set-up and setting up a fully empowered commission.

The conference felt that the corporate office and the field organisations should be given appropriate authority for implementing the telecom plan, and they should also be held accountable for time bound implementation of projects.

The objective of the conference, it was officially stated today, was to create an awareness on the role of telecommunications in modernising the nation, initiate a national debate on the 'telecom mission', invite inputs from other sectors and citizens concerned, and help finance telecom mission documents by developing a national consensus on India's march towards the information age.

As regards knowhow, some participants highlighted the urgent need for non-voice services like data communications, facsimile, etc., in ad-

dition to digital technology for voice telephone and telex. The introduction of newer technologies would reduce the need for personnel for operation and maintenance. But it should be ensured that no existing personnel are rendered redundant.

Appropriate training: The discontinuance of the production of old type equipment and the production of equipment based on new technology should be so phased as not to render workers employed in ongoing units surplus. The need for appropriate training to telecom personnel based on modern methods of interactive training was stressed.

The necessity for effective and open customer relations was stressed. Also underlined was the need for taking telecommunication facilities to rural areas. The necessity of more public call offices was highlighted.

It was felt that the funds needed for investment in telecom services could be generated outside Government resources from the public.

PCO for every village by 2000: Documents circulated by the Department of Telecommunications anticipate that there would be 20 million telephone subscriber lines in the country at the turn of the century. In addition there would be eight lakh data communication lines for business and two lakh telex connections. Every village will have a PCO.

The Department hopes to provide single point customer service cells in major exchanges. The call success rate to free telephones would go up to 95 per cent in 1990 and 99 per cent in 1995 in the case of local calls, to 90 per cent and 98 per cent, respectively, in the case of junction calls, and 60 per cent and 90 per cent respectively for STD calls.

It also hopes to reduce fault rates in telephone lines to an average of one per telephone in every 10 months by 1990 and one in 20 months five years later. The efficiency of manually booked trunk calls would be improved to 80 per cent by 1990. Telegrams between large cities and towns would be delivered within 12 hours or less in 99 per cent cases. The billing credibility would be improved by providing itemised bills for STD calls.

/9274

CSO: 5550/0095

ITI CHAIRMAN ON PROGRESS IN TELECOM PROJECTS

Press Conference Remarks

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Jan 87 p 6

[Text]

The indigenous digital switching system technology of the C-DOT has finally got recognition from the country's premier telephone manufacturing undertaking of the Communication Ministry, ITI.

ITI chairman K P P Nambiar, who was recently given the additional charge as the secretary of the Department of Electronics told newsmen in Delhi on Friday that a memorandum of understanding had been signed between the C-DOT and the ITI.

The highlight of the memorandum is the proposal to set up a pilot model production plant for the development of 128 lines, 512 lines and main automatic exchanges of digital switching system on the designs developed by the C-DOT.

In accordance with the agreement between the C-DOT and ITI, the proposed plant will be set up at the latter's Bangalore factory. While as the C-DOT will provide training, technical assistance and capital, the ITI will supply the infrastructure facilities.

In fact, the production of 512 lines exchanges is expected to start from April, 1988 from the proposed pilot model unit at Bangalore. The plant will have annual production capacity of 100,000 lines.

The ITI, Mr Nambiar said, would also now model its research and development activities on the C-DOT lines and would devote five to ten per cent of its gross turnover for the purpose.

The much talked about digital switching factory is expected to have two technology for the production of digital switching system. The one

would be based on C-DOT know-how and the other on B-10 E which the ITI had imported from a multinational for its Mankapur factory in UP and now has Indianised, added Mr Nambiar.

A decision to this aspect is expected within a week or so.

The ITI, he announced, had, on hand, production of low cost micro-earth stations which would add a new dimension to the satellite communication.

For production of the low cost micro-earth stations, the ITI had recently signed an agreement with the Equatorial Communication Company of the US. The company would, however, export "ready to use" units of the low cost micro-earth stations to India to start with. The ITI would be importing 150 such units to introduce the new communication concept.

Mr Nambiar was confident that India would enter the next century "on par" with the developed nations as far as communication technology went and this would reduce its dependence on import.

As far as R and D of the ITI was concerned, he said, a special unit outside the ITI Bangalore complex would be setup in that city.

Asked if the country would be swamped by telephone manufacturing units as the licence and technology was being offered to private entrepreneurs too, Mr Nambiar said India would be needing something like 24 million telephone lines by the turn of the century against the present three million lines.

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

MADRAS, January 28.

THE 'slimline' hand-held telephone, being manufactured by the Indian Telephone Industries, will come in the market in a big way from April.

The self-contained handset with a push-button dialler, which can be fixed on the wall, can be bought by telephone subscribers from shops and there will, therefore, be no rental payable to the telephone authorities. The price is Rs. 625 compared to more than Rs. 1,000 for the normal set now in use.

The ITI would produce 50,000 instruments of the slimline variety for a year beginning from April, chairman of the ITI, Mr. K. P. P. Nambiar told newsmen here. Its introduction was possible because of the increased activity at the ITI, he said.

The cordless telephone was in the final stage of design. The instruments would be out in two months' time. The system consisted of a base station to which the telephone line was connected and a portable handset which could be operated within a radius of 100 metres from the base station, either for receipt of calls or to make calls.

Mr. Nambiar was addressing a news conference here to announce the launch of the second series of the ITI bonds for Rs. 100 crores to meet part of the finances needed for its expansion and modernisation activities. To meet an annual growth rate of 30 per cent, the ITI would have to invest Rs. 610 crores during the current plan period. Of that Rs. 335 crores would be from plan funds and the balance would be raised through bonds, he said. In 1986 the ITI had raised Rs. 117 crores.

The ITI had also introduced some "state-of-the-art" switching equipment, notably a new family of private automatic branch exchanges. Being micro-processor controlled they offer a variety of facilities to the customers. The ITI was also developing a large digital integrated local-cum-transit PABX with an initial capacity of up to 2,000 lines to be upgraded for 3000 lines.

The company had received one of the largest orders for supply and installation of exchange equipment — 1000 lines costing about Rs. 1.20 crores — from the Visakhapatnam steel project, Mr. Nambiar said.

He said production of the rural

exchange and main automatic exchange versions of the digital switching systems designed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), at the Bangalore plant, would commence from 1989. The design for the rural exchange would be available by the end of this year and that for the 512-line rural exchange by April next year. The model plant being set up would have an annual capacity of one lakh lines.

Production began this month of the multi-access rural radio telephone system, each of which provides up to eight radio channels between the telephone central office and isolated areas (not accessible by cable). Each system can serve 72 subscribers. The ITI will supply 24 systems, enabling access to 576 long-distance public call offices, during the current year, Mr. Nambiar said.

Mr. Nambiar said the ITI had achieved an impressive all-round growth during the financial year 1985-86. Apart from the increase in the turnover of the company from Rs. 236.93 crores during 1984-85 to Rs. 299.53 crores during 1985-86, the company took major strides in areas like introduction of new products, need-based and futuristic R and D thrust, speedy implementation of existing projects. Looking at the future of the telecom scene in a new perspective, and helping and encouraging dispersal of technical knowhow to state and joint sector undertakings.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

One of the most significant and far-reaching policy decisions taken by the ITI in its recent past was transfer of technology to state electronics corporations in the field of transmission equipment. This move would have a profound effect in dispersal of available technical knowhow to various states which can be used by established state electronics corporations to enter the telecommunication industry and expand into new and allied equipment manufacture he said.

Some agreements signed recently include one with the Electronic Development Corporation, Goa (EDC) for manufacture of 3-channel composite equipment for open wire systems. The EDC has set up capacity to produce 200 terminals per annum, with a turnover of Rs. two crores.

STUDY SHOWS STATE-CONTROLLED RADIO 'DISTORTS' NEWS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

BOMBAY, January 30.

A STUDY of Doordarshan's news in English shows that the state-controlled media not only "distorted, but also suppressed news."

The study also presents evidence of the "disproportionate coverage given to the establishment in general, and the Prime Minister, in particular."

Mr. Minoo R. Masani, an executive council member of the Indian Committee for Cultural Freedom, told newsmen yesterday that the study was commissioned with the Indian Liberal Group to assess Doordarshan's standards of objectivity, fairness and good reporting.

The study compared the contents of daily news bulletins with news items published in "The Times of India" on 90 days between April and August, 1986.

The study comprises three parts — excessive projection of ministers, suppression and censorship of inconvenient news and loaded and distorted news.

PM'S VISIT

For example, on April 24, 1986, Doordarshan news had the following: Prime Minister's visit to Rajasthan; Prime Minister's statement in the Rajya Sabha that India will not be cowed down; the I & B minister, Mr. V. N. Gadgil, giving away the Harischandra prize; the home minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, presiding over a lecture-cum-demonstration of yoga by Swami Ram; the President and the Prime Minister giving a send-off to the Seychelles President; and the Prime Minister's address to the bi-annual army gathering.

In an interview to "The Times of India" on April 13, 1986, Mr. Harish Khanna, director-general of Doordarshan, said the Prime Minister felt that if he was inaugurating a building, information should be provided about the building instead of just focussing on the Prime Minister. Five months after this statement, things have not changed materially, according to the study.

On July 15, for example, the news telecast led with the Sri Lankan President's talks with the TULF. It also covered introduction of machinery by the RBI for speedy clearance of cheques.

The news excluded on that day were: Chinese intrusion in Indian territory which was the headline in every newspaper; protected U.S. aid to Pakistan; Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad's visit to Goa to evolve a consensus among the ruling Congress MLAs and the Andhra government's decision to hike the backward classes quota to 44 per cent.

On July 17, India's solidarity with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa figured prominently, while reports of terrorists being trained in Pakistan were ignored.

On July 27, the news that army was called out in Kalimpong was blacked out by television. Other news suppressed were: Charles Sobhraj's escape; the Chernobyl disaster; the Gorkhaland issue; the communal clashes in Ahmedabad; the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundary dispute and the Arwal massacre.

Mr. Masani pointed out that a strong case existed for demanding an autonomous broadcasting and television media in India and public opinion must be built to achieve this end.

/9274

CSO, 5550/0093

OFFICIAL TELLS PLANS TO UPGRADE ASSAM TELECOM

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Feb 87 p 4

[Text]

Silchar, Feb. 1: The telecommunications ministry has drawn up an ambitious scheme to develop the telecommunication facilities in Assam, according to Mr S.K. Pandey, general manager of the state telecommunications circle.

The highlights of this scheme is the setting up of automatic electronic exchanges with subscriber's trunk dialling facilities in 20 towns, including 10 district headquarters, by early next year. The towns to be covered under this facility include Silchar, Tezpur, Nowgong and Hailong.

Mr Pandey said here today that a new 3,500-line electronic digital exchange would be set up in Guwahati. The city would also get a 500-line local-cum-transit electronic digital telex exchange and a computer centre. All these would be ready by early next year. The computer centre would be mainly used for providing instant directory information and preparing bills.

Guwahati will also be linked to 14 foreign countries by the international subscriber's dialling facility from February 10. Mr Pandey said it would be the first city in the northeast to have this facility. The countries to be reached through this system include the UK, US, Japan, Australia, Italy, West Germany, the

Netherlands, Belgium and France.

He said a scheme to open small auto exchanges having a maximum of 250 lines in 34 villages in Assam had also been approved. To provide high-grade reliable long distance media, the present 10-year-old Silchar-Shillong microwave link would be replaced before the month-end by a solid state ITI-built 300-channel microwave system. Satellite stations will be set up here and at Tezpur.

A 3000-line containerised electronic automatic exchange will also start functioning here from October. The exchange, manufactured by Philips, is being imported from Holland.

/9274

CSO 5550/0094

PANEL DISCUSSES TELCOM SERVICES FOR NORTHEAST

Calcutta THE STATEMAN in English 9 Jan 87 p 9

[Text] At a meeting of the Committee of Ministers for the Development of the North-East, held yesterday, several decisions were made to improve the communication system with the far-flung part of the country.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of the North-eastern States and the Union Ministers concerned. It was presided over by the Union Home Minister, Mr Buta Singh.

In terms of the decision, the programmes to be taken up for telecommunication development, and already included in the Seventh Plan, are an electronic telephone exchange at Guwahati, digital electronic trunk automatic exchanges at Guwahati and Jorhat, establishment of 20 satellite earth stations in the strategically important border areas. Point-to-point STD facility between Calcutta and Agartala, replacement of Shillong and Silchar exchanges by new microwave systems during the current financial year and opening of new electronic telex exchanges at Itanagar, Tezpur, Dhubri, Nowgong, Bongaigaon, Aizwal, Kohima and Dimapur.

The vintage microwave system of communication linking Jorhat, Dimapur, Kohima and Imphal with one another and the rest of the country is to be replaced by the most modern digital microwave equipment in the programme to be executed in 1987-88. The old microwave system between Silchar and Agartala will also be replaced during 1987-88.

Several measures are being taken so that the TV service would cover about 78% of the population in the North-East. High-power transmitters, with production centres at Shillong, Itanagar, Dibrugarh, Silchar Kohima, Imphal and Aizwal are being built. The transmitter at Silchar and Kohima are scheduled for commissioning during the current financial year.

The railway lines between Balipara-Bhalukpong, Dharmanager-Kumargha, Silchar-Jiritam and La Bazar-Bhairabi would be completed by 1990.

The Centre has agreed to advance ways and means funds for emergency repairs to buildings and equipment for Ashoka Paper Mills in Assam, pending the final decision about distribution of assets and liabilities between the MKLL and its

counterpart in Bihar. The Centre has also agreed to provide Rs 2.4 crores for the rehabilitation of the Cooperative Jute Mill in Assam.

A site for the establishment of an IIT in Assam has also been selected. To establish an oil refinery in Assam in private sector, the State Government has been advised to identify suitable parties to get a feasibility report prepared.

Transport subsidy for the entire North-East has been raised from 50% to 90% to further improve the civil supplies. More FCI godowns are being constructed.

/13104

CSO: 5550/0089

TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR DIGITAL EXCHANGE CONSIDERED

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jan 87 p 17

[Article by C. V. Gopalakrishnan]

[Text] The Indian Telephone Industries Limited is trying to speed up the pace of production at its Mankapur factory in Uttar Pradesh, and start the manufacture of electronic exchange equipment at its full projected capacity of five lakh lines annually, a year ahead of schedule, in 1988-89.

The Mankapur unit coming up in collaboration with CIT-Alcatel of France produced equipment for 29,000 lines by the end of March 1986. The projected production for 1986-87 is 1.2 lakh lines and it is planned to go up to 2.4 lakh lines in 1987-88, four lakh lines in 1988-89 and five lakh lines in 1989-90. Mr. K. P. P. Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of ITI, is exploring the possibility of advancing the achievement of full capacity in 1988-89 itself.

Both the Bangalore and the Rae Bareilly (U.P.) factories of the ITI will be phasing out their existing production of Strowger telephone exchange equipment in 1989-90 while the Indian Crossbar Project at Rae Bareilly making the electro-mechanical crossbar exchange equipment will be phased out in 1994-95. The phasing out will result in about 7,200 employees in Bangalore and 6,200 employees at Rae Bareilly becoming surplus. The redeployment of the surplus staff will be facilitated by the location of the second and third electronic exchange equipment factories at Bangalore and Rae Bareilly. It has already been announced that the second factory will be located in Bangalore.

A crucial decision now facing the ITI and the Department of Telecommunications relates to the choice of technology for the second electronic exchange equipment factory at Bangalore. The technology being developed by the Centre for the Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is expected to be ready by December 1988. The ITI is now seriously considering whether it should go for the C-DOT technology instead of CIT-Alcatel's.

The C-DOT which had developed the technology for the 128 Rural Automatic Electronic Exchange equipment has licensed 48 parties for taking up its commercial production. The second stage 512 port exchange equipment for which it has developed the technology will be put to field trials which will be

completed by December 1988. This exchange can be connected to 4,000 lines. The C-DOT sees no reason why the ITI should not go for this technology instead of the one from CIT-Alcatel. It feels that it should be possible for the ITI to utilise this technology.

Among the questions which the ITI has to consider is whether the adoption of the C-DOT technology will facilitate the redeployment of the entire staff rendered surplus by the closing down of the Strowger equipment unit. A decision to commence production of electronic exchange equipment based on C-DOT technology from December 1988 in Bangalore, however, implies that orders for components will have to be placed very early. Among the advantages of opting for the C-DOT technology, it is stated, is that the implementation of the programme will be much faster than if the technology chosen is that of CIT-Alcatel.

Optical Fibre Project

Among the new telecom projects which will be taken up for implementation during the Seventh Plan is a new unit at Allahabad to be set up by Hindustan Cables Ltd., for the manufacture of optical fibres involving a capital investment of Rs. 28.6 crores. Hindustan Cables has floated global tenders for technology for the project and has short listed Standard Telephone and Cables of the U.K. and NKT of Denmark. The final choice of collaborator will be made after an official committee evaluating the two technologies submits its report.

The fibre cable which will be as thin as the human hair can transmit 600 telephone calls simultaneously and it is capable of integrating voice, video and data signals. The annual capacity of the Allahabad unit will be 40,000 fibre kilometres per year. The opto-electronic equipment required for making the fibre cable will be made by the ITI.

/13104

CSO: 5550/0088

TOTALLY INDIGENOUS DIGITAL PABX RELEASED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jan 87 p 7

[Text] **A** SOPHISTICATED digital electronic Private Automatic Telephone Exchange Equipment (PABX), produced by the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) unit at Palghat with totally indigenous technology, has been released.

The equipment was designed by the Central sector Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), established in August 1984. The production is under a memorandum of understanding signed by the Indian Telephone Industries with C-DOT to productionise all the equipment designed by the latter.

The new PABX has the latest digital switching techniques. The analog speech signals from the telephone are converted into digital signals, switched through the exchange and reprocessed into analog signals at the receiving end, according to the ITI.

Such digital processing using pulse code modulation techniques offer considerable advantages by way of improved speech quality and easy introduction of features like conferencing, call forwarding, automatic call back, call transfer, call consult and voice/data integration through the same exchange.

The ITI Palghat will manufacture these digital exchanges in large numbers in the new year which will be sold to national communication network and other customers like railways, defence, electricity boards and private and public sector business and production organisations.

MASSIVE EXPANSION

The ITI says that the equipment meets the requirements of modern office communication for both voice and data.

The electronic switching unit of ITI was set up in Palghat in 1974 with an investment of just Rs. 26 lakhs. This was expanded in 1980 with an additional investment of Rs. 98 lakhs to manufacture micro-processor-controlled 200-line electronic PABX's and PABX's of analog technology.

The Palghat unit is now undergoing a massive expansion at a cost of about Rs. 62 crores to increase its production capacity to 160,000 lines per annum, with the product lines covering Digital Trunk Automatic Exchanges (DTAX), Digital Rural Exchange (RAX) and Digital PABXs.

The first DTAX exchange has already been produced under this expansion scheme and this was handed over to the Ernakulam exchange.

The technology for production of DTAX was obtained from Alcatel of France. But the technology for the digital RAX and digital PABXs is totally indigenous.

The C-DOT is an autonomous society set up to develop indigenous digital switching systems in the field of telematics (voice and data).

About 400 engineers and technologists are engaged in the design of a family of digital switching systems, including large main automatic exchanges, using the latest state-of-the-art techniques.

Mr. Sam Pitroda, advisor to C-DOT, says it is an answer to multinationals and he looked forward to many more areas of cooperation between C-DOT and the ITI. By the turn of the century, information activity would be a prime area for employment generation and economic development and in order to be ready for it, the telecommunication scene had to change, he said.

/13104

CSO: 5550/0087

LABORATORY FOR MICROWAVE ELECTRONICS PLANNED

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 87 p 21

[Text]

The foundation stone in the IIT complex at Powai (Bombay) for the research and development laboratory building of the Society for applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) was laid by Mr. S. R. Vijayakar, Secretary, Department of Electronics, on December 29.

SAMEER was set up by the Department of Electronics and registered in 1984 as a society, under the Societies Registration Act to function as an autonomous institute for research, development and establishment of microwave technology in the national interest. Microwave electronics offers immense possibilities in communication, radar, navigation, industrial, medical and energy applications covering the vast electromagnetic spectrum from 300 megahertz to 300 gigahertz.

The microwave engineering group of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) served as the nucleus for the formation of SAMEER which has started functioning with facilities, equipment, expertise and manpower provided by TIFR.

The permanent building for microwave electronic research and development of SAMEER are being built in the IIT campus in a 7.5 acre plot allotted by the IIT for the purpose. SAMEER's advanced microwave electronics activities and facilities will be open to the faculty and students of IIT-Bombay. Similarly, the research and technical staff of SAMEER will have the benefit of working in collaboration with the IIT.

In addition to research and development, SAMEER is engaged in the establishment of microwave technology in the country by making available professional grade microwave products that are advanced state of technology, that serve as import substitutes leading to reduction of undesirable foreign dependence that are strategic in nature but needed in small quantities which are not viable for commercial production and those newly developed special products which have to be made in adequate numbers so as to establish commercial manufacturing knowhow. — **Bombay Special Correspondent**

BRIEFS

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE--Bombay, 7 Feb--The National Informatics Centre is to launch its own data communication satellite in collaboration with the Department of Space by 1989-90. This was announced by the Director General of NIC, Dr N. Seshagiri, at the 22nd annual convention of the Computer Society of India, which ended today. The NICSAT, which will accept and transmit only digital data, will be used by the NIC for its proposed countrywide super-microcomputer network NICNET. It will cover 450 districts in its first phase and will be extended upto the block level--5,000 blocks--in the subsequent phases. The satellite is estimated to cost about Rs 16 crores. The satellite will be based on a KA frequency band (20 giga Hertz) communication system--as opposed to the C-band (4 GHz) communication in the existing INSAT satellite--where the cost of the satellite goes up marginally but the ground station costs come down significantly. A two-way station, with just a 0.5m diameter antenna, costing Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 is expected to fulfill the needs of a block level computer station. Studies of atmospheric attenuation in the tropics of KA-band is currently on and if KA-band is found unsatisfactory, NICSAT may use the KV-band. The International Frequency Allocation Authority has already approved the frequency allocations for the NICNET and the first phase is expected to become operational by May this year. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Feb 87 p 2] /9274

KASHMIR TELEPHONE LINKS--Jammu, 2 Feb--Jammu and Kashmir was today connected by international subscriber dialling to 13 countries and was also linked to 250 cities within the country. Subscribers of Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur, and Sopore can now dial Austria, Belgium, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, the U.K., Turkey, West Germany and the U.S. The governor, Mr Jagmohan, inaugurating the services said, "we can speak on a phone to New York or London within a few minutes, but cannot contact a village 10 or 15 miles away. We have satellites which bring us cricket matches live from as distant areas as Australia but cannot provide the power at the local level to operate TV sets. Such contradictions need to be removed." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Feb 87 p 3] /9274

ITD FOR RANCHI--Ranchi, 30 Jan (PTI)--Ranchi--the summer capital of Bihar--was today linked on international trunk dialling (ITD) facilities with 15 countries, according to the director of Bihar telecommunication, Mr S. P. Choudhury. Mr Choudhury said the ITD facilities were also introduced today

at Dhurba (Ranchi), Gaya, Salmianagar and Sasaram telephone exchanges. The countries which were linked on ITD facilities included Australia, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey, Britain, the USA and the Soviet Union. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 31 Jan 87 p 4] /9274

GDR TELEVISION COOPERATION--India and the German Democratic Republic have signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of television in order to develop and consolidate the cooperation between TV organisations of both countries. The agreement was signed on Thursday in Berlin on behalf of India by Ambassador Prem Kumar Budhwar and Mr Heinz Adameck, chairman of the State Committee for Television of the GDR Council of Ministers. The agreement provides for exchange of TV programmes reflecting social, economic, cultural and sports activities of both countries besides educational, light entertainment, children's and youth programmes. Valid for an initial period of five years, it can be automatically extended. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jan 87 p 5] /9274

SHORE-TO-SHIP LINK--The VHF (very high frequency) link with four VF telegraph circuits between the maritime wireless transmitting station at Meenambedu and the receiving station at Ennore was inaugurated on Tuesday by Mr. A. V. S. Mani, General Manager, Telecommunications, Tamil Nadu Circle. Mr. Mani said the telegraph channels commissioned on the VHF medium would provide stable circuits for transmission from shore to ship. Even adverse weather conditions and faults particularly during monsoon could not deter the communication. The earnings of the station rose from a mere Rs. 5.58 lakhs in 1968-69 to a record high of Rs. 25.06 lakhs in 1985-86, 80 per cent of the income being in foreign exchange. On modernisation of the station, Mr. Mani said it would get connected to INMARSAT--satellite launched for global maritime communication network--for providing telex service from ships on high seas to any telex anywhere in the world facilitating instantaneous printed communication as also voice channels between the ships on high seas and the subscribers on land through international trunk exchange. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Jan 87 p 3] /13104

MADRAI-KODAI TELECAST LINK--The Madras-Kodaikanal telecast link is to be inaugurated tomorrow (January 14) at 5 p.m. at Doordarshan Kendra, Madras, by the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Ajit Panja. The function will be telecast live on Madras and Kodaikanal transmitters simultaneously with an invocation song sung by Smt. M. S. Subbulakshmi, to be followed by the formal inauguration and a cultural programme consisting of light music, folk music and dance recital. Erected on the 2,200-metre tall Kodaikanal Hills, the 150-metre high mast would start radiating for 11 districts, though not fully but to a good extent barring the local shadow regions and the hilly terrains. The districts expected to be in the main coverage area are Salem, Coimbatore, Periyar, Tiruchi, Pudukottai, Anna, Madurai, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam, Kamaraj and Ramanathapuram. Out of 4.8 crores of people in Tamil Nadu, nearly 2.5 crores would watch Tamil programmes on Madras-Kodaikanal transmitters in the days to come. As regards the programme content for the Madras-Kodaikanal link, the evening transmission would start from 5-30 p.m. and carry Madras programmes up to 9 p.m. and join the national hookup thereafter. The second channel for Madras is expected to be made available by the end of 1985. The commissioning of low-power transmitters at Dharmapuri, Nagercoil and Cuddalore, the setting of the cultural studio centre at Madurai and the programme generation facilities

planned at Pondicherry and Andamans would be taken up. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 87 p 3] /13104

RAILWAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM--A digital microwave control communication system to modernise the monitoring of trains was inaugurated by Mr Hrishikesh Bandopadhyaya, general manager, Eastern Railway, at Mughalsarai today. According to an Eastern Railway press release, the system is the first of its kind in the Indian Railways and second in the world. The microwave link between Mughalsarai and Gaya is the "longest link of its type now." The stretch of 200 km comprises 32 digital microwave stations which took two years to complete and cost over Rs 12.55 crores. The release said the system had been supplied by the Harris Corporation of the US. Two hundred engineers worked on the project in which AKG Electronics gave technical assistance. Mr K. Subramaniam, chief signal and telecom engineer, Eastern Railway, and Mr. M. Wala, divisional railway manager, Mughalsarai also spoke on the occasion. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 Jan 87 p 4] /13104

INDO-PAKISTAN TELEX--The automatic telex service between India and Pakistan will be commissioned on January 12, according to an official press release here today. The dialling code in "0982" and the call charges are one pulse for every six seconds. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 10 Jan 87 p 5] /13104

CSO: 5550/0091

IRAN

TELEPHONE CENTER INAUGURATED

Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Nov 86 p 11

[Text] Mashhad, CENTRAL NEWS UNIT. On the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the great Prophet of Islam, his holiness Mohammad ebn-e 'Abdollah, the central urban telephone building of the city of Gonabad was inaugurated in ceremonies attended by Mr Gharazi, the minister of post and telegraph, the directors general of post communications of Khorasan Province, two of the Majlis representatives of the people of Yazd and Gonabad, the governor and Friday imam of Gonabad, and several city officials. According to the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT report, at the present, this center has 2,000 urban telephone lines and 18 intercity entry and exit channels, which have been installed and put into operation by committed Iranian experts and engineers. This number can readily be increased to 5,000 lines. According to this report, the center building has 800 square meters under construction at a cost of one billion rials, which was funded and paid by the Iranian communications company.

10,000

CSO: 4640/85

MICROWAVE LINK WITH EGYPT UNDERWAY

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by Elia Nassrallah]

[Text] AMMAN — Jordan and Egypt are taking practical steps towards implementing a major telecommunications project linking the two countries via Aqaba and Sinai.

Mr. Akef Harb, assistant director for operations at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), told the Jordan Times that work on the Jordanian side of the project, which has been going on for nearly two years, will be completed by the end of 1987.

The project inside Jordanian territory is expected to cost \$12 million and is to be covered by the treasury and the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Mr. Harb continued.

He said that the project, known as the Regional Microwave Transmission Project, was the subject of discussion between a team from the Egyptian Telecommunications Corporation and the TCC at a meeting held at the TCC headquarters on Wednesday. The talks covered technical and engineering aspects and designs pertaining to the project.

The Egyptian team will remain here for one more week to hold more discussions on the project, Mr. Harb added.

According to TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail, the talks will pave the way for a general agreement on the implementation of the project now that the Egyptian side has decided to announce a tender for carrying out their part of the scheme within their territory in the near future. He said that the

Egyptian side will carry out its part of the project after agreement is reached with the TCC on all technical aspects and other related matters.

Following the talks, Mr. Ismail stated that the TCC's part of the project entails linking the national telephone and television networks with those of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Telephone links

Once the project is completed, it will enable Egypt to have telephone links through the Jordanian network to Iraq, Syria and Turkey and will boost Egyptian television broadcasts throughout the region, Mr. Ismail added.

The project will also enable Jordan to make use of the international submarine cable network that links South East Asia, the Mediterranean and Western Europe, extending between Singapore in the east and the French city of Marseille in the west, Mr. Ismail added. This network, in turn, he said could later be linked with the American continent through a submarine cable.

Relay stations

According to Mr. Harb, the TCC is building 11 relay stations between Amman and Aqaba in order to boost the microwave signals going to or coming from the south or to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Once these stations are built and the project is operational, he said that towns such as Shobak and Qweira in the south will have better reception for television programmes.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE ENDS, MEASURES ADOPTED

AB230928 Conakry Domestic Service in French 195 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Excerpt] The first national conference of posts and telecommunications ended this evening at the People's Palace in Conakry under the chairmanship of Capt Gbagbo Zoumanigui, member of the CMRN and secretary of state for fisheries, and in the presence of El Hadj Abdourahamane Bah, minister of religious affairs, Abou Camara, secretary of state for civil service, and Herve Vincent Bangoura, secretary of state for posts and telecommunications. Reporter Abderhamane Diallo has the details.

[Diallo] The final report adopted by the conference highlighted poor equipment and the low level of services rendered by this equipment. The document denounced the acts of piracy in the area of private radio communication stations. Concerning telecommunications, the conference expressed satisfaction with the medium-term plan for the construction of a second earth station named Sanda a in Conakry, the study for the construction of a submarine cable to link Conakry with Dakar and Abidjan, and the study and the implementation of the Guinean segment of the pan-African telecommunications network [PANAFTEL] in order to open up Fria, Bopa, Boke, Kamsar, Sangare, Gaoual, Telimele, Koubia, Lelouma, and Koundara localities to the outside world. The conference also expressed satisfaction with the plan to build a rural telephone system that will link the subprefecture to their chief towns. Concerning the National Broadcasting Corporation, the conference recommended the launching of the transmitters at Tombo and Kankan, the renovation and extension of the (Sanfodia) transmitting station, and the rehabilitation of the transmitters at Kipe. Other recommendations were made to open up the Foret prefecture and the eastern part of the Haute Guinee prefecture to the outside world, within the framework of the PANAFTEL network.

/9716

CSO: 5500/6

EBBEHOUT TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT DISCUSSED

Pretoria SALVO in Afrikaans Dec 86 pp 21, 22

[Unattributed article: "Project Ebbehout Is Announced by Minister"]

[Text] Project Ebbehout, which was officially put into service on 25 September 1986 by General Magnus Malan, minister of defense, on behalf of the SA Defense Force, is the biggest project yet undertaken by Armscor's Telecommunications Department in cooperation with the Chief of the Army's Signals Directorate. Besides the main contractor, at least 20 other organizations in the private sector participated in it. Elements of the system were unveiled for the first time, once again placing South Africa at the forefront of technology. The system enables the SADF to manage its defense even better, and is regarded as the most advanced of its kind in the world. In 1968, when the project was started, it was the then minister of defense and current state president who displayed the farsightedness to make the finances available for such an extensive project. Ebbehout is designed so that the system as a whole will never become antiquated. It is also continually being updated with respect to new technology in the same manner as it was gradually put into service while the project progressed.

What does Ebbehout actually comprise? The answer in brief is that it is the SADF's national communications system for command and control. The tropospheric dispersion system is a way in which long-distance multichannel radio communication is obtained by means of reflection from the troposphere. The troposphere consists of the first two to three kilometers of the atmosphere. The system provides the user with a large number of simultaneous speech and data channels. Intermediate stations are not needed over long distances, because it is a troposystem. This factor promotes economy of cost and facilitates safeguarding. The tropo and microwave backbone networks serve as carriers for a variety of communication services. This includes telegraph, data and telephone communications by means of a linked speech network. The transmission network is fully integrated and moreover links up with the post office's existing nationwide transmission network. However, the linked speech network makes it possible for SADF units to talk with each other directly by telephone without the intermediary of post office exchanges. From the main stations in the network, multichannel radio communications are furnished to nearby bases by means of microwave links.

A further service provided by the system is the sophisticated computerized telex report handling capability. All telex reports of the SADF, Armscor and branches are sent through the system. The system is so "smart" that it assures that every signals report reaches its final destination at all times. All reports are moreover stored by the system and can be located again. Ebbenhout also provides support by means of a high-frequency infrastructure. This renders assistance in terms of long-range links for the tropo and microwave systems. An important aspect of the system is that a military unit which is tactically deployed can effect direct communications with its headquarters. The equipment was already successfully utilized in that way during Exercise Thunder Chariot.

Some of the dish antennas are up to 27 meters high. They naturally sometimes had to be set up on inhospitable sites with difficult access. So this required a further infrastructure of roads, electric power and water, which had to be laid out. The electric power is moreover backed up by a system of emergency power generators. Special buildings are needed for certain of the equipment and close attention was also given to requirements for preservation of the environment. General Malan rightly said during his speech on the occasion of the official adoption of the system that "because the defense family remains in the foremost line, the SADF, Armscor and the private sector regularly come forth with perplexing technological developments. In this way they accept the difficult challenges of our present juncture of time."

13084

CSO: 3401/84

BRIEFS

ANTHOLOGY OF DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED--An anthology of documents "The CPSU on the Mass News and Propaganda Media" [KPSS o Sredstvakh Massovoy Informatsii i Propagandy] has been published. It consists of four sections comprising CPSU documents on the periodical press, book publishing, television and radio. They bring to light the genuinely popular nature of Soviet mass news and propaganda media and the principles of the party's leadership of them. The documents and materials examine problems of the development of newspaper and journals, book publishing, television, and radio, and also questions of forming and educating journalist cadres. The anthology, published by the Political Literature Publishing House, is intended for ideological front workers, for students and lecturers at journalism faculties, and for workers' and peasants' correspondents. [TASS report: "Anthology of Documents"] [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 87 First Edition p 3 PM]

CEMA INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM--Moscow February 12 TASS--An international automatic information exchange system will help to unite intellectual resources in the CEMA member-countries, Oleg Smirnov, director of the Applied Automatic Systems Institute, has told jouranalists. It will ensure the prompt information exchange among organisations in socialist countries taking part in the comprehensive programme of scientific and technological progress. The new system also provides a unique opportunity for organising international scientific televised conferences. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 12 Feb 87 LD]

MOSCOW HOSTS MEETING--Moscow, 18 Feb (ADN)--A 2-day meeting of the heads of radio and television corporations in socialist countries and of the International Organization for Radio and Television (OIRT) ended in Moscow on Wednesday. In the course of an exchange of experiences, information was also provided about television and radio reporting that will mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The participants in the meeting, including Heinz Adameck and Achim Becker, chairmen of the GDR State Committees for Television and Radio, were received by Aleksandr Yakovlev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. [Text] [East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1858 GMT 18 Feb 87 LD]

PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION SIGNED--Berlin February 18 TASS--Today Joachim Herrmann, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SUPC), received Sergey Losev, director-general of the NEWS AGENCY OF THE SOVIET UNION (TASS), who is visiting here.

At the ADN news agency, talks on all-round expansion of cooperation between the two news agencies were held. Guenter Poetschke, ADN director general, and Sergey Losev signed a protocol on cooperation between the sports news services of TASS and ADN for 1987-1988. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 18 Feb 87 LD]

COMMUNICATIONS EXCHANGE WITH ZANZIBAR--A protocol on cooperation for a two year period was signed in Zanzibar between the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Sports of the island division of the United Republic of Tanzania and the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. The document envisages an expansion in the exchange of television and radio programs between the USSR and Zanzibar. Zanzibar viewers and listeners will be able to become acquainted with Soviet films, and scientific, musical, and sports broadcasts on a regular basis. In accordance with the protocol, Zanzibar television and radio specialists will be sent to the Soviet Union for training courses for producers and editors. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 1 Jan 87 LD] /12913

DJIBOUTI NEWS SERVICE ACCORD--Djibouti 12 January TASS--TASS correspondent Gennadiy Gabrielyan reports: The news agency of the Soviet Union (TASS) and the national news agency of the Republic of Djibouti (ADJI) have signed an agreement on cooperation here. TASS news service will be transmitted to the East-African country in the Arab and French languages. Ismail Husayn Tani, general secretary on the issues of information at the republic's presidential office, who signed the agreement from Djibouti's side, said that large western news agencies, which monopolized the spread of information, force on African and other developing countries ideological and economic stereotypes alien to them. They inculcate in them an erroneous notion of the surrounding world. We will counter Western agencies' dangerous monopoly with information from such a country as the USSR. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 12 Jan 87 LD] /12913

CSO: 1807/141

EEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES OUTLINED

Brussels BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES in English No 6 Sep 86 pp 34-35

[Text]

Television and telecommunications of the future

2.1.58. On 4 June the Commission adopted, for consideration at the Council meeting on 9 June, two communications and a proposal for a Directive on the Community telecommunications policy, high-definition television (HDTV) and direct satellite television broadcasting.

The first communication¹ reports on the progress of the activities approved by the Council in December 1984² in several priority areas. The Commission points out that technological developments now require these activities to be stepped up and a joint study to be made of the organization and regulation of modern telecommunications systems. It expresses its intention of sending further proposals for directives to the Council, before the end of the year, to supplement those already before it so as to ensure that the Member States take coordinated action at a time when telecommunications systems are undergoing radical change and modernization.

In the second communication³ the Commission states that the CCIR⁴ at its recent meeting in Dubrovnik agreed on a two-year period of study before taking a decision on an international HDTV standard and therefore it is necessary not only to adopt standards meeting European needs but also to offer equipment on the market. The Commission is planning a general approach covering technological (image generation and transmission), industrial (professional and general-public equipment, programme production) and regulatory aspects.

An action plan will very shortly be drawn up covering developments under the RACE programme. The Commission will also take part in the Eureka project on HDTV submitted by Thomson, Philips, Bosch and Thorn/EMI at the Eureka intergovernmental meeting in London on 30 June (→ point 2.1.47).

In its proposal for a Directive⁵ the Commission urges the Council to adopt its January proposal on MAC/packet standards (→ point 2.1.60.).

Mutual recognition of type approval for terminal equipment

2.1.59. On 9 June the Council agreed to the proposal for a Directive concerning the first phase of the establishment of the mutual recognition of type approval for telecommunications terminal equipment.⁶

This relates to the mutual recognition of conformity tests on terminal equipment and is therefore only a first stage in establishing a single market in this sector.

As regards the next stage, Article 8 of the Directive provides that the Commission will make new proposals within two years of its

¹ COM(86)325 final.

² Bull. EC 12-1984, point 2.1.31.

³ SEC(86)902.

⁴ International Radio Consultative Committee, one of the permanent organs of the International Telecommunication Union.

⁵ COM(86)321 final.

⁶ OJ C 232, 12.9.1985; Bull. EC 5-1985, point 2.1.21.

adoption, covering in particular the implementation of mutual recognition of type approval for mass-produced terminal equipment.

Direct satellite television broadcasting

2.1.60. On 21 June the Council reached a consensus, pending an opinion from Parliament,¹ on the use up to 31 December 1991 of common technical specifications of the MAC/packet² family for direct satellite television broadcasting and retransmission of programmes by cable.³

Standardization in information technology and telecommunications

2.1.61. The Council examined certain essential questions relating to the proposal for a Directive on standardization in the field of information technology and telecommunications.⁴

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying the file so that the Council could take a decision as quickly as possible.

Use of videoconference and videophone techniques for intergovernmental applications

2.1.62. As requested by the Council at its 28 February 1984 meeting, the Commission referred to it on 30 May 1985 a feasibility study on the setting-up of an intergovernmental videocommunications network between the national authorities in the Member States and the Community institutions.⁵

Taking note of this study and the conclusions reached by the Commission, the Council adopted a resolution on the use of videoconference and videophone techniques for intergovernmental applications on 9 June.⁶ The resolution is reproduced below.

'The Council of the European Communities,

...

invites the Member States:

/12828

CSO: 5500/A026

1. to implement an initial operational intergovernmental videoconference and videophone system which takes account of the potential of videoconference and videophone techniques, in order to improve and make more efficient the bilateral and multilateral exchange of information between the governments of the Member States and the Community institutions; to that end, to entrust such implementation to the telecommunications authorities;

2. to complete the necessary installations, in accordance with the requirements they have ascertained;

3. to encourage the telecommunications authorities of Member States to proceed actively with establishment of the trans-Community broadband communications necessary to support an intergovernmental videoconference and videophone system;

invites the European Parliament and the Commission to:

1. examine conditions for their participation in an initial operational intergovernmental videoconference and videophone system;

furthermore, invites the Commission to:

1. continue the cooperation that has been established with telecommunications authorities and users during the preparation of the feasibility study and in particular resolve problems specific to the use of videoconference and videophone facilities by governments and the Community institutions, such as confidentiality, simultaneous interpretation and the possibility of multilateral conferences;

2. submit a report to the Council on the experience gained during 1987, also covering the financial aspects of putting this resolution into practice, so that the applicability of the system to intergovernmental communications may be assessed and a decision taken as to whether the use of videoconference and videophone facilities for such communications should be encouraged further.'

¹ On 16 May Parliament had not delivered an opinion (as reported in Bull. EC 5-1986, point 2.1.40) but a resolution.

² MAC: multiplexed analogue components.

³ OJ C 59, 2.4.1986; Bull. EC 1-1986, point 2.1.37.

⁴ OJ C 232, 23.9.1985; Bull. EC 5-1985, point 2.1.21.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1985, point 2.1.23.

⁶ OJ C 160, 27.6.1986.

⁷ Basic research in industrial technologies for Europe (1985-88): OJ L 83, 25.3.1985; Bull. EC 12-1984, points 1.7.1 and 1.7.2.

NORDIC GOVERNMENTS STILL SEEKING CONSENSUS ON TELE-X USE

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 11 Jan 87 pp 30-31

[Article: "Northern Europe's Superchannel: 'Tele-X Program Policy Should Be Reconsidered,' Says Communications Official Kaj-Peter Mattson"]

[Excerpt] Soon there will be a rush for spots to park television satellites in space. They are planning to get tens of new European satellites into orbit by 1990. Even now, 27 new television channels have been created in Europe in just a few years time.

The Council of Europe deliberated in December in Vienna about what to do when the big American and Japanese companies through their satellite channels force national public radio companies to adopt a defensive attitude.

We Finns are trying to keep pace with the world. We are already receiving Channel 3 and we can at the most view about 10 channels. Now they are pondering at the Communications Ministry, among other places, what more might be done with the Nordic Tele-X.

Tele-X programs must be redesigned. We must coldly consider a Nordic commercial superchannel, one which would also interest viewers "in the grip of that crazy culture in the sky," advisory official Kaj-Peter Mattson of the Communications Ministry suggested.

The planning of and the prototype for Sweden's experimental space industry project, the Nordic Tele-X, is swallowing about 1.5 billion kronas.

At the Communications Ministry they estimate that Finland's share of the technical and program expenses will be from 100 to 150 million markkas during the next 3 years. Finnish Broadcasting Corporation experts, however, estimate that costs may be even twice as high with the more difficult alternative.

So far, Norway and Finland have been contributors in addition to Sweden. In February the Nordic Council will again discuss Denmark's participation in the Tele-X project.

When the Ariane rocket misfired a year ago, the Tele-X timetable was delayed for at least another year and a half.

Second channels are in the offing for Norway and Denmark. The viewing of neighboring countries' telecasts has increased to a point close to the outer limits. Channel 3 has come into being in Finland. The situation is constantly changing in all the Nordic countries.

In the Nordic Council of Ministers they have reached a binding decision on Tele-X and, according to Mattson, Finland should not even consider slipping out of the venture. "Finland anyhow participates in important Nordic joint ventures with quite small sums of money. On the other hand, we must certainly ask how Tele-X will be employed when it goes into operation in the summer of 1989--if it does start operating."

Mattson is the chairman of the committee that is drafting the plans for Tele-X and this committee includes one representative from each of the Nordic countries.

Many important issues concerning the Tele-X project are still open to discussion. Programming, funding and the duration of the entire project are still to be decided on. Questions involving copyright are also still unresolved.

Initially, Tele-X would transmit programs on two channels. Channel 1 would concentrate on news and current events programs. Channel 2 would telecast cultural and entertainment programs.

In Mattson's opinion, the whole Tele-X program policy should be reconsidered. He doubts that viewers are any longer interested in a program schedule composed of only the sort of programs that are at present telecast.

"We ought to coldly consider commercial, unholy alliances by means of which we might create a Nordic superchannel. We would have to get film institutes, newspaper publishers, investment companies and firms like the Esselte Video Company to participate in it," he proposed.

In his opinion, we would in this way get new blood involved in the Tele-X programs. The purchasing power represented by Tele-X's potential 22 million viewers guarantees firms' interest in cooperating with the venture.

The test period for Tele-X is 3 years and conclusions have not yet been arrived at. If a viewer does not belong to the cable network, he will need an antenna costing about 5,000 markkas to be able to view Tele-X programs, even during the test period. Besides, the Tele-X project is at present based on only one satellite which will "die" in from 5 to 7 years.

The 3 years of Tele-X programs will cost about 500 million kronas. This sum includes presentation rights, technology and the leasing of channels. Sweden is paying 47 percent in accordance with its so-called gross national product key, Norway 27 percent, Finland 24.7 percent and Iceland 1 percent. If Denmark joins them, these figures will change.

Newspaper Czars' Channels in the Sky

International satellite telecasts are rolling into people's homes at a dizzying rate of speed. The British Sky Channel, for example, started with almost nothing 5 years ago, but now 7,278,126 households in different parts of Europe, from Budapest to Oslo, can view programs transmitted by it.

Within a few years time 27 new television channels have sprung up in Europe and they intend to get tens of additional new European satellites into orbit with the Ariane rocket by 1990. It is estimated that there will be over 100 channels in less than 5 years from now.

In December Finnish officials headed by Education Minister Gustav Bjorkstrand attended the Council of Europe ministerial conference on communications policy in Vienna to confirm the wild rate of change.

The field of European communications is irreversibly changing. Local radio stations, cable television, the satellite channels and video recordings are pushing their way into it alongside government-supervised, but stiff and bureaucratic public radio monopolies.

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CSO: 5500/2455

NORDIC COUNTRIES' CONSERVATIVES BACK LARGER TELE-X SYSTEM

PM051037 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 25 Feb 87 p 12

[Kaa Eneberg dispatch: "Four Channels in Tele-X Plan"]

[Text]Helsinki — Yesterday the conservative group gave its joint support to the Nordic television companies' demand that the Nordic Tele-X television project should be changed from the two channels on which a decision has already been reached to a somewhat more expensive four-channel system.

Swedish Culture Minister Bengt Goransson, the minister responsible for television questions in the Swedish Government, said in a comment to *Dagens Nyheter* that he is open to new suggestions which are currently being investigated. However, he rejected the proposal on which the Nordic area's conservatives had reached agreement for the reason, for example, that it contained no plans for the subtitling of programs. This will chiefly have an effect on the transmission of Finnish-language programs.

Goransson, who together with his Nordic ministerial counterparts much reach a decision on the Tele-X project before 15 June, also rejected the conservatives' description of the transmissions on two channels that are currently planned.

"Talking about only edited transmissions of repeats is oversimplifying things. It is like saying that when a Norwegian film has its premiere in Helsinki, this is simply a repeat," Goransson said.

"We have no views on how the four channels should be shared between the countries. We merely want to make it clear that a political decision to abandon the old two-channel system and to establish that Nordic television cooperation in the future should take place in a four-channel system is urgently needed," Swedish Moderate Coalition Party leader Carl Bildt said yesterday when he held a news conference on the conservatives' proposal together with Finnish National Coalition Party leader Ilkka Suominen and the Norwegian Conservative Party's Jan P. Syse.

Even the Swedish Center Party, which in the past was opposed to the idea of a rich system of television exchange between the Nordic countries, is now in favor of Tele-X having four instead of the outdated two channels.

Swedish Riksdag deputy Gunnar Bjork of Gavle called on the council of ministers to "show openness when it comes to how the channels are to be used." This should include collaboration with media companies other than the state companies, revenues from advertizing, and pay television. A decision should also be reached on a fund for joint Nordic, film, television, and video production.

For the Finnish Social Democrats, Finland-Swedish Eduskunta deputy Kaj Barlund voiced distrust of a Tele-X with two channels.

"The competition for the Nordic viewers is increasing and the structure of Tele-X is of crucial importance if the project is to be a success for cultural policy," Barlund said.

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CSO: 5500/2467

POST OFFICE HEAD DISPUTES FIGURES ON 'CONTRACT OF CENTURY'

Brussels LE SOIR in French 1 Dec 86 p 7

[Interview with Mr De Proft, general manager of RTT in article by Guy Duplat]

[Text] In the RTT file that Martens will reopen next Wednesday a lone actor has still stayed silent. All the other, from the manufacturers now on the market to those who wish to get a foothold, and including the politicians, have had the opportunity of saying everything concerning the contract of the century for renovating central offices, and the future statute reserves for the RTT. To date, the only one which has abstained from commenting was the RTT itself. We interviewed the general manager, De Proft.

His comments are a new weight in the thorny file that the ministers will find on their table come next Wednesday. And even more so since Mrs. D'Hondt appears to share his views.

If the principal interested person is to be believed, just the "contract of century" idea itself should be seriously apportioned. Out of the question are the 170 billion francs worth of orders in ten years desired by the great masters of Bell and Generale in the Van Dijck-Davignon document. Let us stay with the central offices and for five years only, meaning 25 billion francs worth of contracts only, explains Mr De Proft.

The RTT is strongly criticized by the public? Perhaps with some reasons, its general manager admits between the lines, but the blame would be due to too much interference by too many politicians who prevent the Administration from operating as a real business. Things are changing however. All of the Administration indicators are on the rise. There may be profits amounting to as much as 10 billion francs, enough to lower international communications rates or connection costs.

No to the monopoly

As to the monopoly that the Administration maintains on certain terminals, it is hardly desirable, explains Mr De Proft. It is the manufacturers who impose it, since for the Administration, competition for all of the terminals is the best way to stimulate demand and to create a greater demand for communications that would be profitable to RTT itself.

[Question] Mr De Proft, you direct the RTT, but there are some ministers who will soon decide upon the orders that you must place in the matter of central offices?

[Answer] For us, it is first necessary to request proper proposals from several potential suppliers, whether there are two, four, or six.

[Question] It is said that the Administration presently pays double the world price for its central offices?

[Answer] That is undoubtedly the case. What I do know is that we are paying too much. It is first necessary to get proposals, even though the government then legitimately takes into account other considerations such as those of an industrial policy.

[Question] But that is going to take time whereas since last 20 October, the date of the end of the 15-year agreement with Bell and Atea, you can no longer order new central offices.

[Answer] We are not at fault in any case. But I believe that this request for proposals can be accomplished quickly and that a final decision can be taken at the beginning of next year. I hope that they will not plead emergency to force suppliers on us without our being able to compare their prices beforehand.

[Question] How many suppliers does the Administration want?

[Answer] We want two, of equal capacity, or in other words not like before where a big supplier hatches a small one. There should be competition between these two suppliers who should, in addition, be part of a large worldwide group to guarantee the progressive transformation of the system toward the future services, the integrated-services digital network (RNIS).

[Question] Two suppliers of equal capacity?

[Answer] In any case, the second supplier should be able to guarantee the furnishing of at least 100,000 lines per year, which is a third of the contract and the minimum for obtaining competitive prices. And if that leads to a 50/50 distribution between suppliers instead of the former 80/20 share between Bell and Atea, I would not be opposed to it. Furthermore, this supply contract should be limited to 5 years and should be flexible. There would be continual competition between the two suppliers.

[Question] We are far from the 170 billion francs in 10 years of the Van Dijck-Davignon document?

[Answer] We are completely against these figures. By limiting it to the central offices only and by taking into account only a 5-year contract with the actual prices of the present central offices, the contract of the century would involve only 25 billion francs.

[Question] But why change suddenly since, from the beginning of the century, the RTT divides its orders 80/20 between Bell and Atea?

[Answer] First, because Atea is presently linked with the large Siemens group. And on the other hand the world market has so evolved under the impact of technological change that we should get involved with these worldwide groups. And the latter will be able to survive only by selling 8 million lines each year. In this market, Belgium will barely influence the decisions.

[Question] Let us come to the report of the "wise men" and the future statute of RTT?

[Answer] The report of the "wise men" is good. We will certainly make remarks, but overall it is a very valid work. We must maintain the monopoly on the network, but for the remainder I am agreed to completely liberalize all of the terminals, including the first item provided however that the Administration can remain present in the terminal marketplace. The desire for maintaining the monopoly is not so much that of the Administration as that of the suppliers.

[Question] You appreciate above all the Administration's desire for autonomy?

[Answer] This is the essence of the problem. Everybody wants the Administration to operate as a business, assuming its responsibilities. But at the same time we are blocked by a member of outside interferences: the COC is involved with our orders, the public Function with our personnel, etc. I have never had problems with my supervisory ministers, Willockx (SP), De Croo (PVV), or Mrs. D'Hondt (CVP), but many problems with all of the other ministers who were involved with RTT. Before I was named to the head of the Administration there was nobody in charge during 28 months, which caused all of the skidding that you know about; this time, I hope that the political power will be more diligent for my succession.

[Question] The public is very critical of the RTT. For example, the connection times?

[Answer] It is true that there is room for improvement, but I would like to underline all of the effort already accomplished. At the end of 1980, the average delay for a connection was 3 months. At the end of 1985, the average wait was one month. For a while this waiting period increased by reason of the rush of new requests resulting from the advertising offer of last January (130,000 additional connections requested in 15 days), but this "boom" is practically resolved today. The situation is somewhat worse in Brussels whereas 5 years ago it was better than elsewhere. This is due to technical problems but also to the difficulty in recruiting bilingual personnel.

[Question] A one-month delay is still not very good?

[Answer] It is an average. But we are improving everywhere. Our efficiency is improving with great strides. In five years our operating costs went from 55 to 45 percent of our sales. Our personnel has been reduced from 29,000 to only 26,800. Our self-financing has been increased from 50 percent to more than 100 percent today. We now totally finance our 18 billion francs of annual investments, but additionally we are reimbursing our loans. Our 5-year plan contemplates profits up to 10 billion francs which will be used to discharge our debts but also to lower our international rates in order to combat international competition and to attract foreign firms. We are also thinking of lowering connection costs so as to stimulate telephone demand because we are aware that there are ways of improving telephone use in our country. Besides competition for the terminals is one means of reaching this goal.

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CSO: 5500/2432

PROSPECTS FOR ASTRA SATELLITE SYSTEM SEEN IMPROVING

Luxembourg LUXEMBURGER WORT in German 24 Jan 87 p 4

[Article: "ASTRA Satellite Project Improves Its Chance of Success"]

[Text] (LW)--Last January 10 we reported on the appearance of a new shareholder in the "Societe Europeenne des Satellites." At the company itself and in government circles, as well as among sceptics, this news is viewed as an important breakthrough which might possibly ensure the project's success.

Since in all probability stiff competition for the ASTRA system will arise in the French and German markets as a result of the direct-broadcasting TDF and TV-SAT satellites, the British and Scandinavian markets, in the opinion of many European experts, will assume a key role in terms of business related to ASTRA. With the SCAN-SAT group there has already been an ASTRA candidate for some time in the Nordic markets. But up to now there was uncertainty with regard to the British market because plans for an English direct-broadcasting satellite were also becoming more concrete.

Against this background, the decision of the THOMES TELEVISION company to become a shareholder in the "Societe Europeenne des Satellites" represents a major success for ASTRA strategists. This new British partner is a leading name in the media; it is the largest private television network in Great Britain, has a license for television broadcasting in London and is an important exporter of in-house produced programs.

Insiders, however, point out the fact that participation in ASTRA was subject to express approval by the English federal communications agency, the IBA. That this approval was granted is evidence of the fact that the influence of the anti-ASTRA front within official agencies abroad has been able to be clearly reduced in the past year.

Although neither SES nor the government naturally provide any kind of confirmation, it is considered certain that there are other parties in Great Britain interested in ASTRA. Among them and heading the list is newspaper magnate Robert Maxwell who earlier, along with Berlusconi of Milan, Leo Kirch of Munich and Seydoux of Paris, helped form the European consortium to which the previous French government promised use of the TDF satellite--a decision which has since been rescinded.

This change in attitude on the part of agencies abroad with regard to the ASTRA system is also apparent due to the fact that representatives of the three most important members of the Eutelsat organization, which still opposes the Luxembourg project, namely the German federal postal ministry, the French "Direction Generale des Telecommunications" and England's British Telecom, recently visited the Betzdorf ground station now under construction. They found themselves in the company of 75 participants in an SES colloquium on the problems of the commercial introduction of the ASTRA project in Europe.

This conference was held Monday and Tuesday at the Interconti Hotel. Attending the conference were experts from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Great Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and West Germany--producers of antennas and receiving equipment, in addition to a number of television broadcasting companies, business representatives from the cable systems sector, etc. Apparently the assembled experts had come to realize that the Luxembourg project had the best outlook of all of the satellite systems which have been announced.

The participants were clearly concerned about the unresolved question of transmitting and receiving standards. The consensus was that in the interest of all parties concerned (industry, TV broadcasters, satellite operators) a standardized solution for all of Europe must be found both in terms of actual technical standards and encoding methods for commercial television. Since the necessary materials will be ready for delivery by 1988, these questions must be answered as soon as possible. The SES was therefore convinced by its guests to sponsor another conference dedicated only to these questions which is expected to take place as early as within the next two months.

Minister Jacques Santer, SES General Director Dr Pierre Meyrat, the director of the German Press Federation, Claus Detjen, and Serge Donkhan, former marketing director of "Canal+," appealed to the assembled experts during the course of the conference. An advertising campaign by the industry via already available receiving systems was announced. A special designation for parabolic antennas compatible with ASTRA was also planned.

British Postal Department on ASTRA?

We here in Luxembourg were not able to obtain confirmation of another interesting piece of news. In its latest edition dated January 21, the always well-informed journal NEW MEDIA MARKET, published by the FINANCIAL TIMES group, asserted that the English communications firm, British Telecom, which was transferred to private ownership some years ago, was about to sign an agreement with SES regarding cooperation on an ASTRA system. British Telecom currently uses Eutelsat and Intersat satellites to transmit various British television channels such as the Sky Channel and Music Box and, it is said, is interested in 9 to 12 ASTRA channels for its current and future viewers.

Should this cooperative agreement come to pass, the conflict between Luxembourg and Eutelsat will appear in a new light, since British Telecom is one of the leading shareholders in Eutelsat. In Great Britain, on the other hand, the project involving a national direct-broadcasting satellite which would be ready for deployment by the 1990's would again become questionable if parabolic antennas in England are oriented toward ASTRA as of 1988.

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